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For instance, the back of the Church committee report carries a chronology of key dates from 1959, when Fidel Castro took over the Cuban government, through White House concern in 1967 that Castro had plotted Mr. Kennedy's death in retaliation for numerous U.S. plots against Castro.

The chronology especially zeroes in on clandestine CIA moves to overthrow Castro during a several-year period.

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LBJ hinted CIA plot in Kennedy slaying

By SETH KANTOR
News Washington Bureau
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WASHINGTON — President Johnson apparently became privately convinced early in 1967 that the CIA had been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, based on information quietly passed to the FBI by a top Johnson aide, W. Marvin Watson.

Watson telephoned Assistant FBI Director Cartha D. DeLoach late on the night of April 3, 1967, requesting in behalf of the President that the FBI probe what role the CIA might have had in an assassination conspiracy.

The extent of any involvement, if it existed, was not detailed.

The Watson phone call, followed the next day by a confidential, high-level memorandum from DeLoach to FBI Associate Director Clyde A. Tolson about the presidential request, and whatever further developments there were regarding Mr. Johnson's suspicions about CIA actions in 1963 are among details omitted from a special Senate Intelligence Committee's final report issued last Wednesday.

The 106-page report on the behavior of U.S. intelligence agencies in relationship to the assassination of President Kennedy was made public on June 23.

But the report had been 66 pages longer, before FBI and CIA officials reviewed its contents earlier in June, according to information obtained by The Detroit News.

The Senate committee headed by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, is reported to have been pressured by intelligence sources to make certain deletions from the report before it was made public.

The CIA, for instance, is reliably said to have held up the public release of the report until one whole segment was removed — a segment dealing with secret CIA tape-recordings of two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City, nearly two months before Oswald was charged with the death of Mr. Kennedy in Dallas.

An article in the New York Times by Nicholas M. Horrock last Sept. 21 revealed that the CIA had taped Oswald's conversations with Cuban and Russian embassy personnel in late September and early October, 1963.

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The fact that Mr. Johnson may have been concerned it was a CIA plot does not appear in the final version.

"We never really were able to tell" if Mr. Johnson was trying to blame elements of the CIA for Mr. Kennedy's death, Schweiker said.

Late last year, DeLoach told Schweiker during a session of the Church committee that he felt President Johnson's view "that a certain agency may have been involved in a conspiracy . . . to be sheer speculation."

DeLoach said that Watson, then a special assistant to the President, didn't follow up the phone call, after telling DeLoach that Mr. Johnson had said "in an off moment that he was now convinced that there was a plot in connection with the assassination."

The comment attributed to Mr. Johnson was made nearly 2½ years after the Warren Commission had concluded that there had been no plot — that Oswald had acted alone.